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## By ECF, and Chambers' Email

Hon. Stuart M. Bernstein, U.S.B.J.

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of

New York

One Bowling Green

New York, New York 10004

Re: SIPA v. Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789

**Trustee Profit Withdrawal Motion** 

## Dear Judge Bernstein:

On behalf of Norman Blum, a Participating Claimant, we write to formally object to the Trustee's request that the Court consider his letter as a motion for leave to take an unknown number of depositions of unidentified potential fact witnesses. *See* May 6, 2016 letter, ECF 13254, at 3 (requesting leave "to depose former nonincarcerated BLMIS employees," including *but not limited to* the four deponents at issue).

Plainly, the Trustee is trying to bypass normal motion practice; the request appears calculated to deprive Participating Claimants of any opportunity to respond to the merits of the Trustee's proposal. More fundamentally, the letter makes no showing of good cause for the depositions, the standard for amending the governing Order Establishing Schedule for Limited Discovery and Briefing on Profit Withdrawal Issue ("Order"). ECF 10266 (6/25/15), at ¶ 20 (Order may only be modified for good cause shown).

The Trustee admittedly did not take into account any testimony of former employees when calculating the effect of profit withdrawal transactions: "the Trustee has determined ...[the] treatment of profit withdrawal transactions, in a fair manner and to his satisfaction based on the books and records of BLMIS ... [and] the Trustee's position is and has been that the Court can affirm the Trustee's treatment of profit withdrawal transactions on the basis of the expert disclosures and the briefing ..." Trustee Reply in Further Support of Motion for Extension of Scheduling on PW Issue (ECF 13016) at 4.

The Court's inquiry about former employees does not alter this fact. Indeed, the Trustee makes no representation by proffer or otherwise that the testimony of these witnesses is in any way relevant to his profit withdrawal motion. He has thus not provided good cause for the belated depositions of numerous BLMIS employees beyond the scope of the limited discovery permitted by the Court on the Trustee PW motion, or excused his failure to make timely notice of their testimony as per the prior order of the Court.

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This tactic should not be endorsed by the Court, and Mr. Blum renews his request for a conference on these issues.

Respectfully,

Baker & McKenzie

By: /s/ Richard A. Kirby
Richard A. Kirby

cc: Seanna Brown, Baker & Hostetler LLP (by ECF and email)
Kevin Bell, SIPC (by ECF and email)
Helen Chaitman (by ECF and email)